

Paisley case may draw FBI investigation

By LAWRENCE L. KNUTSON

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee said Wednesday "troubling questions" remain in the death of former CIA official John A. Paisley. He asked for an immediate FBI investigation.

Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., the committee chairman, ordered the information of the panel's own investigation turned over to Attorney General Griffin Bell "because of the FBI's primary jurisdiction over counterintelligence matters within the United States."

Paisley's decomposed body was found floating in Chesapeake Bay last Oct. 1. It was weighted with two diving belts. There was a gunshot wound behind the left ear. A week earlier, Paisley's 31-foot sloop, the "Brillig," had been found drifting in the bay.

Police called it suicide.

But Paisley's estranged wife expressed doubt and said she was not convinced the body was that of her husband.

Maryland police, who conducted the investigation, have since reconsidered, concluding that the cause of death is "undetermined."

Paisley, 55, retired as deputy director of the CIA's Office of Strategic Research, but was employed by the agency as a consultant. He was reported to have been working on a top secret assessment of Soviet military strength.

Sen. William Roth, R-Del., who requested the Senate committee probe, said he will keep pressing for a public accounting of the case.

Roth and some other senators have asked whether there is any link between Paisley's fate and the theft from the CIA of the highly sensitive operating manual of a satellite that monitors the Soviet nuclear arsenal.